OAKWOOD CEMETERY - HISTORICAL TOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR ROUTE

OPENING STATEMENTS

A CEMETERY IS MORE THAN A PLACE TO HOUSE THE DEAD - A CEMETERY RECORDS LIFE.

ETCHED IN THE MARKERS AROUND YOU ARE THE SENTIMENTS OF PAST ERAS - THE HISTORY OF INDIVIDUALS - THE HISTORY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

A CEMETERY PROVIDES TO US A CONNECTION WITH OUR FOREBEARS - THOSE WHO BUILT WHAT WE NOW ENJOY.

THE BELOIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRIES TO PRESERVE THAT HISTORY - AND THE STORIES OF THE PEOPLE OF BELOIT - THOSE WHO CAME AND LEFT BEFORE US - AS WELL AT THOSE STILL WITH US - SO THEY WILL BE REMEMBERED IN THE FUTURE.

HISTORY OF OAKWOOD CEMETERY

A letter from Horace Hobart (a member of the New England Emigrating Society), in December 15, 1837, tells us that the early settlers established a "BURYING GROUND" and that - 159 years ago - it received its first burial.

The location of the "BURYING GROUND" was on what is now the Northwest corner of Horace White Park, or North the present memorial for Horace White Sr. and Horace White Jr. located in the Park, at the end of Public Avenue.

Hobert's letter, reprinted in the Beloit Journal, June 14, 1866, states that the first burial was a "brother" of Mrs. Mears, living three miles north of the settlement, buried on "the first sabbath in December."

There are records of three deaths in 1838:

<u>Major Charles Johnson</u>, August 20, 1838. Johnson was about 50 years of age, and a land investor who had purchased land from Caleb Blodgett. He was unmarried, and lived in Tebo's old house (or cabin) and his rank

of "major" was supposedly for service in the Vermont Militia. He was also the Chairman of the three member committee (including Lucius Fisher and Robert Crane) who actually named BELOIT in 1837. PIONEER BELOIT, by Judge Arthur Luebke, should be read by anyone interested in the details of the naming of Beloit.

Nathan Allyn, September 16, 1838, had arrived in Beloit in 1838, but decided to stake his claim up Turtle Creek in Shopiere, and then built a house at Carver Rock. He died at age 57.

<u>Chole Blodgett</u>, the wife of Caleb Blodgett, who with her two teen age daughters were the first white women in Beloit, died on November 3, 1838, leaving behind her husband Caleb, and nine children.

It was probably determined that the "BURYING GROUNDS" were to close to the downtown, and there was established a new "BURYING GROUND" at what is now called Oakwood Cemetery, on lands obtained from Caleb Blodgett. Choic Blodgett's body was moved to the new site, and she rests by Caleb Blodgett in Oakwood. No records have been found as what was done with the bodies of Major Johnson or Nathan Aliyn.

In 1873, the City purchased an additional plot of land along Central Avenue, and in 1885, William Bastrow Strong gave to the City the remaining lands (almost the entire East half of Oakwood, known as Strong's Addition) of what is there today.

GRAVES, BY NUMBER ON MAP

1. CALEB BLODGETT FOUNDER OF BELOIT

Beloit's Founder.

Born in Vermont in 1785, he married in 1807, in New York State, moving then to Ohio, in 1834 or 1835, attracted by offers of Government land, he settled for a time near Wheeton, in Du Page County, Illinois.

After being advised by CHARLES GOODHUE, a merchant in the Rockford area, of the possibilities of the area where Turtle Creek joined the Rock River, in 1836 he came to Beloit, with his son-in-law, JOHN HACKETT, and probably with a couple of his grown sons, liked it and found a French-Canadian Trader (who was part American Indian), TEBO, had already settled here and had built a cabin, so Blodgett PURCHASED THE FAMOUS "THREE LOOKS OF LAND" FROM A TEBO for what's

believed to be between \$250 and \$500, for which Blodgett received land ranging in estimation in various "stories" of from 3,000 to 10,000 acres.

There exists no written deed from Tebo, and what written documentation of the land sale was given, if any, has never been found.

In December, 1836, Caleb was joined by his wife and two teen age daughters...the first white women in 8eloit,

Regardless of technical legalities...CALEB BLODGETT proceeded to sell portions of "his hand to settlers who would soon be arriving in beloit...PRIMARILY THE NEW ENGLAND EMIGRATING COMPANY, which has sent, from New Hampshire, its agent, DR. HORACE WHITE, to locate land in "the West" to colonize.

No physical description of Calab Blodgett exists. His wife, Chloe, died in 1838 and Calab followed her in 1840, so their lives here in Beloit were of a short duration.

HIS BELOIT PERIOD, IMPORTANT AS IT WAS, LASTED ONLY FIVE YEARS, BUT HIS SONS, GRANDSONS AND EVEN GREAT GRANDSONS CARRIED ON THE BLODGETT FAMILY INTO BELOIT AND ROCK COUNTY HISTORY.

Caleb Blodgett's son-in-law - JOHN HACKETT - who we will meet later on this tour, became BELOIT'S FIRST MERCHANT and civic leader - and perhaps more than Caleb Blodgett, can be considered the founder of the Beloit what would be created by Caleb's original purchase - and sale of the lands where the community stands.

2, CRANE FAMILY ROBERT P. CRANE FOUNDING PIONEER FAMILY OF BELOIT

Arrived in 1837, just after Caleb Blodgett, walking to Beloit from Chicago in the winter. It was reported that he had met Dr. Horace White in Rockford, and had been directed to Beloit by him, and found Beloit already had a saw mill, built by Caleb Blodgett, he moved into Tebo's cabin and he went to work for Blodgett - becoming a founding pioneer Beloit family of several generations.

In 1838, after CALES BLODGETT had sole most of "his claims - obtained from his THREE LOOKS purchased from Tebo" - The settlers became concerned immediately over the legality of their title ownership of the lands purchased from Blodgett.

All of the land was QUIT CLAIMED to ROBERT P. CRANE, who registered his ownership, based on those quit claim deeds, at the Land Office in Milwaukee...but

registering the deeds BEFORE RECEIVING A PATENT FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT...REMEMBER...WISCONSIN WAS NOT A STATE, IT WAS A TERRITORY AT THIS TIME, land to be owned, had to be obtained from the Federal Government, and title was evidenced by a U.S. Patent. After "registered his deeds" Robert P. Crane returned to Beloit and GAVE HIS QUIT CLAIM DEED to the Settlers, returning to them the lands they had deeded to him for registering.

On a June day in 1955, MATT CARPENTER, a former resident of Vermont, who had arrived in Beloit in 1848, and opened his law office here, announced....standing on the front steps of the FIRST CHURCH - located on the Southwest corner of Broad and Prospect Street....to a seething crowd of Beloiters... THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE TITLE TO THEIR LANDS...IT WAS OWNED BY PAUL DILLINGHAM...GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF VERMONT.

Carpenter's theory was that BLODGETT NEVER HAD LEGAL OWNERSHIP...CRANE'S QUIT CLAIM DEED...AND HIS DEEDS TO OTHERS WERE BEFORE A GOVERNMENT PATENT HAD BEEN ISSUED...GOVERNOR DILLINGHAM PURCHASED THE PATENT..AND THEREFORE HE OWNED WHAT WAS THEN THE ENTIRE BUSINESS DISTRICT OF BELOIT, AND MOST OF THE REST OF THE VILLAGE...INCLUDING THE LANDS WHERE BELOIT COLLEGE SAT...AND HAD DESIGNATED MATT CARPENTER AS HIS AGENT TO "NEGOTIATE" THE PURCHASE OF THE LAND..BY THOSE IN POSSESSION OF THE LAND FROM THE PAST 17 YEARS.

A legal test was necessary...so Carpenter selected LUCIUS FISHER'S lands as that test. This wasn't all about real estate...although Carpenter and Dillingham (and other land speculators) intended to make big bucks, squeezing money from the Beloiter's who had been occupying, developing and building on the land, politics was involved.

Matt Carpenter was a young ambitious lawyer and an active DEMOCRAT...LUCIUS FISHER a former Whig, had been one of those instrumental in organizing the NEW REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Dillingham became disenchanted with the speculation, but the claim continued to be pursued by MATT CARPENTER...and Attorney EDWARD G. RYAN, Democrat leader in Wisconsin. LUCIUS FISHER was defended by Beloit lawyer JAMES DOOLITTLE ...WITH A BRIEF ON BEHALF OF LUCIUS FISHER FILED BY AN ILLINOIS LAWYER BY THE NAME OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

It took a decision by the United States Supreme Court, sustaining the title of Lucius Fisher, which in turn sustained the titles of all of the rest of the Beloiters, to settle the dispute.

This was a brutal battle, evidenced by the fact that a year later Attorney Carpenter, who at least one time had been threatened with lynching, moved to Milwaukee, where he continued his outstanding legal and political career (including being a U.S. Senator..and being called "The Webster of the West"). Attorney Doolittle was elected Bock County Judge, and later elected, as a Republican, to the U.S. Senate.

2. LT. COL. LOUIS H.D. CRANE CIVIL WAR CASUALTY - GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC POST

Born in New York State, Crane was a graduate of Hamilton College and moved to Beloit in 1853 after his wife's family had settled here. Although he was a lawyer, he taught at Union School No. 1 until 1856, when he moved to Dodgeville, Wisconsin, to practice law, and was promptly elected District Attorney of Iowa County.

In 1858 he was chosen chief clerk of the Wisconsin Assembly, and in 1859 moved to Ripon, Wisconsin. On June 1, 1862, he was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the 3rd Wis. Inf., and by June 1, 1862, had been promoted to Lt. Colonel of that regiment.

On August 9, 1862, at age 36, Lt. Colonel Crane was killed in action at the Battle of Cedar Mountain, Tennessee. Although he was not a Beloit resident when he joined the Union Army, his wife had returned to Beloit during his service, living with her parents, and at his death Beloit claimed him as her own. His body was returned to Beloit and buried at Oakwood Cemetery. The Beloit G.A.R. Post No. 54 was subsequently named for Lt. Colonel Crane.

The <u>Beloit Journal & Courier</u> reported only 4 military funerals during the Civil War. The first was that for Lt. Col. L.H.D. Crane, of the 3rd Wisconsin, who fell at Cedar Creek. Published in the <u>Beloit Journal & Courier</u>, September 4, 1862, was also a letter to his widow, dated August 26, 1862, from William Y. Selleck of the Wisconsin Sanitetion Commission, advising her that he had shipped the body of Lt. Col. Crane to Beloit, by express mail, postage pald, and addressed to the Postmaster of Beloit. He advised that the body was in two cases, and cautioned her "The inner case should not be opened as the remains are not in a state to be seen." On September 3, 1862. Services were held at the First Congregational Church, although services were conducted by Rev. Davis of the Episcopal Church, and also with Masonic services, and Lt, Colonel Crane was laid to rest at Oakwood.

3. ROY CHAPMAN ANDREWS EXPLORER - PIONEER BELOIT FAMILY MEMBER

The simple marker on the grave of ROY CHAPMAN ANDREWS gives no hint of fame as an explorer, anthropologist, scientist and author...discover of dinosaur bones, fossil deposits and eggs in the Gobi Desert.

He was a member of a pioneer Beloit Family, his grandfather coming to Beloit in the 1850's. He was a graduate of Seloit High School and Beloit College.

By the 1930's his parents had left Beloit and settled in Florida...he had been married twice...on his death...in 1860..st age 86....living in California, he was cremated and his ashes returned to be buried in the family plot here at Oakwood.

WAS HE THE MODEL FOR INDIANA JONES...Steven Spielberg has said "NO" although the character of Indiana Jones, packing his revolver, comes close to photos of Roy Chapman Andrews, seen in photos packing his six gun, a gun that had three notches carved on the handle, representing three mongolian bandits he killed during a raid on his camp in the Gobi Desert.

You can learn more about this famous adventurer soon, as David Mason is writing a new history of Beloit College what will be published soon.

4. WILLIAM T. GOODHUE PIONEER BELOIT FAMILY

Beloit's first mayor in 1856.

Until 1837 Beloit was called Blodgett's Settlement - the Turtle - or New Albany, on name as good as the other.

THE NAME "BELOIT" SELECTED IN 1837 - WHY AND HOW? READ "PIONEER BELOIT" - BY JUDGE ARTHUR LUEBKE.

Beloit incorporated as a village in 1846...it became a city in 1856.

Dr. Horace White, while searching for land, had met GEORGE GOODHUE, who had a store in Rockford, and went into business with George, buying land.

George's father, SQUIRE CHARLES L.H. GOODHUE, and HIS BROTHER, WILLIAM T. GOODHUE, then age 14 arrived in Beloit from Canada in 1837 - the rest of the family

followed in 1838.

The grave site contained a DAR PLAQUE - WILLIAM T. GOODHUE, CAPTAIN, CONTINENTAL ARMY, honoring the father of Squire Goodhue, for whom his son had been named.

The Goodhue's were wealthy land investors. At THE HANCHETT-BARTLETT HOMESTEAD you will find portraits of the family...

The Goodhue's had land and business interests in Wisconsin, Illinois and all the way to St. Louis. They built a flour mill on the river front - and also built what's believed to be the first distillery in Wisconsin - HERE IN BELOIT - then moved it into the Town of Newark - the story being because of community pressure.

5. LUCIUS MOSELY CIVIL WAR

Enlisting in the 22nd Wis. Inf. Regt. in the Civil War, Mosely was captured and imprisoned at Libby Prison, until he was exchanged. He returned to his Regiment and continued to serve throughout the Civil War. After the War he was one of the organizers of the Crane Grand Army of the Republic Post in Beloit, and one of Beloit's more ective veterans.

6. MARSHALL A. NORTHRUP CIVIL WAR - LINCOLN'S ADDRESS IN BELOIT, OCTOBER, 1859

In September, 1859 - MARSHALL A. NORTHRUP - a Beloit lawyer and Corresponding Secretary of the Beloit City Republican Club, wrote a letter to an Illinois lawyer - ABRAHAM LINCOLN - inviting him to speak here in Beloit.

ON OCTOBER 1, 1859 - ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPOKE AT HANCHETT HALL.

To read about this event - "LINCOLN IN BELOIT" by Judge Arthur Luebke.

MARSHALL A. NORTHRUP had arrived in Beloit from the East in 1854, at age 27. His family already here since the late 1840's. He had been educated, and practiced law in Ohio for a few years before coming to Beloit. He lived on Bridge Street (West Grand) near Bluff, where he also had his law offices.

When the Civil War started he recruited a company of men from Beloit - which was called the "BELOIT STAR RIFLES" - he was elected its CAPTAIN. The Beloit Star

Rifles became COMPANY "G" OF THE 6TH WISCONSIN INFANTRY - OF THE FAMOUS IRON BRIGADE.

CAPTAIN NORTHRUP'S COMPANY Was with the Army of the Potomac in Washington D.C. and in June, 1861, GENERAL GEORGE McCELLEN assumed command. His first action was a weeding out of officers considered or deemed not qualified as combat leaders....

MARSHALL NORTHRUP was at this time 35 years old...an infantry captain walked and marched with his men, didn't ride a horse - walked - it was a young man's activity.

In October, 1861, MARSHALL A. NORTHRUP resigned from the Army...it was either than or be dismissed. Why? Age, health, and probably lack of military aptitude.

For the next two years, until his death by natural causes in 1864, he pleaded to be allowed back in the Army...Letters to the Governor...Recommendations from prominent Beloiter's, and even officers he had served with...all were unsuccessful.

The fact that this bore heavily on him is expressed in his obituary...

"...HAVING SERVED IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, ON ACCOUNT OF ILL HEALTH AND OTHER EMBARRASSMENTS INCIDENT TO A SOLDIERS LIFE, KNOWN TO HIS FRIENDS, HE FOUND HIMSELF UNDER THE NECESSITY OF RESIGNING HIS COMMISSION AND RETURNING TO HIS HOME AND FRIENDS."

7. JOSEPH A. BOWLING PIONEER BLACK FAMILY

Came to Beloit in 1846 - A FREE MAN.

Established himself as a shoemaker...married...built a home on 4th Street and had six children. By 1862 he had his own business - Listed in the City Directory as MANUFACTURER AND DEALING IN BOOTS AND SHOES.

Other Pioneer BLACK CITIZENS can be traced by name, but not by burial here at Oakwood:

EMMANUEL CRAIG - 1839
SAM DAVIS - STANTON KEYES - DAVE YOUNG - 1850'S
FILAS MALONE - WILLIAM WAFFLES - 1858
RUBEN YOUNG - WILL BOND - 1864

JOSEPH A. BOWLINGS Descendants still live in our Community - with added FAMILY NAMES OF BOND AND GRADY.

8. SERENO TAYLOR MERRILL TEACHER - INDUSTRIALIST - FOUNDER OF FAIRBANKS

Arrived in Beloit in 1846 to take charge of the Beloit Seminary and was there until the Seminary was merged into Beloit College, and was a teacher of the first Freshman Class at Beloit College.

He went into the paper-making business, and in 1851, his firm WRIGHT & MERRILL built the first paper mill on the Rock River. He became one of the founders of the ECLIPSE WINDMILL COMPANY (the fore-runner of Fairbanks).

Served as Beloit's Superintendent of Schools. For 30 years was a Trustee of Beloit College.

Served in the Wisconsin Legislature and Rock County Board of Supervisors. He was one of the organizers of the BELOIT SAVINGS BANK in 1881 (now Blackhawk State Bank), and its first President....and given credit for establishing the school savings plan in America...in place with pennies, nickels and dimes of students for many, many years.

9. DR. HORACE WHITE, SR. NEW ENGLAND EMIGRATING COMPANY

ORGANIZED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE - 1836 COOS COUNTY, COLEBROOK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dr. Horace White appointed its Agent to seek Government Land in Illinois or Territory of Wisconsin.

Capt. G. W. Bicknell & his sons
Dr. George Bicknell
Edwin Bicknell
Ottis P. Bicknell
Robert P. Crane
Horace Hobart
David J. Bundy
Herman Beach
Ira Young

Ansel B. Howe Alfred Field Cyrus Eames Peter Field Samuel C. Colley Eleazer Crane Leonard Hatch

Found in Beloit - Caleb Blodgett building a saw mill and mill race along Turtle Creek, with several workmen already in his employment.

George Goodhue, who already had a store in Rockford, was an investor with Caleb Blodgett.

Dr. Horace White negotiated with Caleb Blodgett and purchased one-third of the lands Blodgett had obtained from Tebo - \$2,500. Blodgett sold another one sixth to Major Charles Johnson (who would die in 1837, single) - \$1,500, and a one fourth to George Goodhue - \$2,000.

THE BEST INFORMATION FOUND ON WHAT BLODGETT PAID RANGED BETWEEN \$250 TO \$500 - SO - STILL KEEPING THE BEST LANDS FOR HIMSELF, CALEB BLODGETT POCKETED \$6,000 FROM THE NEW ENGLANDERS - WITHIN 18 MONTHS. BIG BUCKS FOR THIS TIME!

DR. HORACE WHITE LIVE IN BELOIT ONLY SIX YEARS,...AND DIED AT AGE 33...HIS CONTRIBUTION TO OUR BEGINNINGS OVER.

His son, HORACE WHITE JR. graduating from Beloit College in 1853, went on to be a newspaper editor in both New York and Chicago...reported THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES...became a power in the Republican Party...and was a friend and confidant of ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

HORACE WHITE PARK IS DEDICATED TO BOTH FATHER AND SON.

SEE THE MONUMENT IN THE PARK - END PUBLIC STREET.

10. PROFESSOR JOSEPH EMERSON BELOIT COLLEGE

Professor of Greek.

One of the original faculty of Beloit College.

Graduate of Yale - he arrived in Beloit in 1848 to teach in the NEW BELOIT COLLEGE.

OTHER BELOIT COLLEGE FOUNDERS TO LOOK FOR:

AARON LUCIUS CHAPIN

The first President of Beloit College. Also Yale, 1837, and an ordained minister, he graduated from the Union Theological Institute in New York in 1844...and arrived in Beloit...selected by Rev. Peet...to be Beloit College's first president in 1849.

Chapin attained a national reputation, serving in such capacities as on the Board of Examiners for both Annapolis and West Point. He taught in the areas of economics, political science, sociology and history.

JACKSON JONES BUSHNELL

Also a Yale, 1841, graduate. He arrived in 1847 to teach, which he did for many years, but also to become a pioneer Beloit businessman.

He built the Bushnell House, at State and Grand, Beloit's first hotel and called in its time the best hotel West of Milwaukee. He probably served Abraham Lincoln lunch on that October, 1859 day he spoke here in Beloit.

He went with the Class of 1864 - as Chaplin of the 47th Wis. Inf. Regt., and no commencement at Beloit College was held that year - the whole class was serving the Union.

WILLIAM PORTER

A later arrival, 1852, and a graduate of Williams College - teaching Latin.

JAMES JOSHUS BLAIDSDELL

From Dartmouth and Andover, he arrived in 1859 - served with "his boys" from Beloit College as Chaplin of the 47th Regiment in the Civil War. He was a Presbyterian Minister (serving the First Presbyterian Church here in Beloit) as well as a college professor.

11. CAPT. ALEXANDER GORDON, JR.: CIVIL WAR CASUALTY

Alex Gordon, who had attended Beloit and Ripon College, was a private in the ill-fated Beloit Cadet Rifles, rejected from service in the 2nd Wis. Inf. Returning to Beloit he, with his brother-in-law, Frank Oakley, organized a new militia company and he was elected its Captain, Frank its 1st Lt. He was commissioned a Captain, at age 21, commanding Company K, 7th Wis. Inf. of the Iron Brigade.

He led his company at the Battles of Brawner Farm, 2nd Bull Run, Antietam and Fredericksburg where he was wounded.

He returned to Beloit to recover from his wound and married, spending one month with his new bride...then returning to his Company, and was killed in action at Fitzhugh's Crossing, Virginia, April 29, 1863 - 24 years of age.

In May, 1863, the body of Captain Alexander Gordon, killed in action at age 24, would be returned to Beloit, and services held at the First Congregational Church.

Also found at this site is FRANK OAKLEY, who lost his right arm at Antietam, but three months later returned to the Army as a supply officer, served to the end of the Civil War and was discharged as a Major.

12. JAMES A. PERRY THE LAST BELOIT SURVIVOR OF THE CIVIL WAR

The history of the L. H. D. Crane Post, Grand Army of the Republic, ended with the death in 1943, at the height of World War II, of James A. Perry, age 96. Mr. Perry was six years old when his family moved from Michigan to Beloit, and he remained a resident for the next 90 years of his life, living in the same house, located on Highland Avenue, that his father had built when the family arrived in Beloit. Mr. Perry's service was at the end of the Civil War, when on February 13, 1865, at age 17, he enlisted in Company "H" of the 47th Wisconsin, and served until September 4, 1885. The 47th Wisconsin was sent to Louisville, Kentucky, but the War shortly ended and it saw only guard duty.

Returning to Beloit, Mr. Perry practiced his trade of carpenter and cooper with his father, making wooden barrels for shipment of flour until the turn of the century when cloth bags became the method of shipping of flour. He never married. Mr. Perry was an active member of the Beloit Post, and until his death (later years riding in an automobile) was a participant in Memorial Day parades and ceremonies.

13. LT. FREEMAN B. RIDDLE: CIVIL WAR CASUALTY

A Beloit resident and "Son of Beloit College," he enlisted as a private in the 5th Wis. Inf. on June 4, 1861, and with that unit participated in several major battles, being wounded at Williamsburg, Virginia.

Recovering from wounds, he returned to the Army and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the 37th Wis. Inf., and killed in action at Petersburg, Virginia, June 17, 1864 - at 20 years of age.

In June, 1864, the funeral of 1st Lt. Freeman Riddle, killed in action at age 20, and also held at the First Congregational Church.

14. ELEAZAR CRANE FIRST PERSON TO BE BURIED IN OAKWOOD

First person we can document as being buried here at Oakwood - in 1839 - is Eleazar Crane. Nothing is known about Eleazar, and it's believed that he was a brother of JOHN CRANE, a member of the New England Emigrating Company, who had arrived and settled in Beloit in 1837. His faded headstone doesn't give us much information, but in his book PIONEER BELOIT, Judge Arthur Luebke tells about the short history of Mr. Crane here in Beloit.

14A LUCIUS G, FISHER PIONEER CIVIC LEADER

Sometimes forgotten among the more commonly recognized names of Beloit's pioneer builders, such as Caleb Blodgett, Dr. Horace White and John Hackett, is Lucius G. Fisher. It can be stated with confidence that Lucius G. Fisher was one of the most important of all our founders.

Born in Vermont in 1808, at age 28 Lucius G. Fisher came to "The Turtle" or "New Albany" in July of 1837. He left us a treasure of letters, personal observations and for years was a defacto correspondent with the Beloit Journal & Courier, contributing articles, and correcting what he considered to be misinformation about the origins and history of Beloit.

Coming from the East he first settled in Galena, intending on going into the lead mining business. Fortunately for Beloit he met Squire Charles Goodhue, who he had

known in the East, and who had already settled in Beloit with his two sons, and was building a flour mill. Squire Goodhue suggested the advantages of Beloit, and Fisher arrived here on July 15, 1837.

In his memoirs, Lucius G. Fisher wrote of his arrival in Beloit:

"It was Sunday morning, the fifteenth of July, 1837. I found Caleb Blodgett and his family there in a log house, and we slept upon the floor tow nights while there in the only house except a log hut which had just been vacated by an indian trader, by name of Thibault, whose wife was a squaw.

The first day. Sunday, I took a walk up where the College now stands, and on to the banks of Turtle Creek where I saw many indian mounds, some of them still preserved, and where I had an uninterrupted view of prairie such as I have ever seen before - I said to my friend with me that it was the most beautiful view that I had ever seen. Quite a number of indian wigwams were standing upon the prairie near the creek, and hurdles for drying corn which had been raised for years upon the Turtle bottoms."

Fisher, for \$400, purchased land from Charles Goodhue (who had previously purchased the land from Caleb Blodgett) and settled in Beloit. Lucius G. Fisher, within two months of his arrival, was one of the members of the committee appointed to select a name for Beloit. He would, for the remainder of his life, participate in a debate as to how the name "Beloit" was selected, what was the meaning of the name "Beloit," and who selected the name. PIONEER BELOIT, by Arthur Lueble (available at the Library and for purchase at the Lincoln Center of the Beloit Historical Society) will answer those questions for you.

Fisher opened Beloit's first hardware store. He processed and finished lumber obtained from Goodhue's mill, and was most actively engaged in land speculation. In 1839, he was elected "pathmaster" to lay out and supervise construction of roads in the area, the first being along the Rock River, South towards Rockford, North to Janesville, and East up Turtle Creek to the Shopiere area.

Fisher, from 1839 to 1844, was Rock County's first Sheriff. He served Beloit as both postmaster and alderman. He was active in the founding of the First Congregational Church. In 1857, he was elected to the Wisconsin Legislature. He was an investor and director of our first paper mill, served as President of the Rock River Bank, and in 1844 became a Trustee of the Beloit Seminary, which became Beloit College.

When Beloit College was chartered on February 2, 1846, Lucius G. Fisher was among the 16 initial Trustees of the College, and remained a Trustee for 35 years.

When Beloit College was organized, of the original \$700 subscribed for the College, Fisher was the first and largest contributor. In addition to his contribution of money, talent and service as a Trustee, Fisher, who had purchased six choice lots on the bluff overlooking the Rock River for his own use, gave those lots to the new Beloit College, and the College stands on the site given to it by Fisher.

in 1855, when the land titles of Beloiter's were under attack in court by Matt Carpenter, Lucius G. Fisher was the one who defended their titles (and his own) and reportedly hired his friend, Abraham Lincoln, as one of his attorneys in that successful action.

For thirty years Lucius G. Fisher was at the forefront of the development of Beloit. In 1866, after the Civil War, he moved to Chicago, continuing his successful business ventures, but he never forgot Beloit, and returned to his home (a large stone house located at the site of the Fire Station on Pleasant Street, demolished in the 1930s) for family visits and the management of his local business affairs. He died in Chicago in 1886, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

15. REV. STEPHEN PEET - 1787 - 1855 BELOIT COLLEGE

Born in Vermont. Graduate of Yale in 1823, ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1837.

Rev. Peet was a missionary and circuit rider in Wisconsin, serving both Presbyterian and Congregational Churches, and was a leader in founding Beloit College. He also worked to establish the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1855.

Died in Chicago but his body was brought to Beloit for burial. His stone, on one side contains highlights of his life, and is probably the only monument in Oakwood that does into such detail. Worn and hard to read, it says:

Erected by the Ministers and Churches of the Northwest

FOR THIRTY YEARS A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL. A PIONEER IN THE BETHEL CAUSE. FRONTIER MISSIONARY PASTOR IN OHIO AND WISCONSIN. HOME MISSIONARY SUPERINTENDENT AND ORGANIZER OF MANY CHURCHES IN THIS STATE. ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS

AND MOST ARDENT FRIEND OF BELOIT COLLEGE.AGENT AND....OF THE....AND UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH.

THOU....WITH HONOR.

16.
JAMES HANCHETT
PIONEER BELOIT BUILDER

JAMES AND CHAROLINE HANCHETT CAME TO BELOIT IN 1840...FROM INDIANA. JAMES HANCHETT WAS OUR FIRST MAJOR BUILDER...HE CONSTRUCTED THE FIRST DAMS ACROSS THE ROCK RIVER...IN BOTH BELOIT AND JANESVILLE...SO THAT SAW MILLS AND FLOUR MILLS COULD USE THE WATER POWER OF THE RIVER.

JAMES HANCHETT HAS NO MAJOR MONUMENT ON HIS GRAVE...BUT LEAVES TWO MAJOR MONUMENTS IN BELOIT.

HE BUILT THE STATELY 11 ROOM LIMESTONE HOME...NOW KNOW AS THE HANCHETT-BARTLETT HOMESTEAD, OWNED BY THE BELOIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. HE ALSO BUILT THE OLDEST SURVIVING OF BELOIT'S BUSINESS BUILDINGS...HANCHETT HALL AT THE CORNER OF STATE AND BROAD.

HANCHETT HALL WAS NOT TOTALLY COMPLETED ON OCTOBER 1, 1859, WHEN ABRAHAM LINCOLN ARRIVED TO SPEAK TO THE COMMUNITY. BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER, IT WAS DECIDED TO HOLD HIS TALK IN THE UNFINISHED THIRD FLOOR. A TEMPORARY PLATFORM WAS CONSTRUCTED IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE HALL...THERE WERE NO CHAIRS...EVERYONE STOOD UP...AND THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY WHAT SOME GUESSED TO BE OVER 400 PEOPLE.

17. CAPT. JOHN VALLEE CIVIL WAR

When the call for volunteers was made by President Lincoln, John Vallee immediately joined the Beloit City Guard as a private, and was with the first company from Beloit to enter into Federal service. The Beloit City Guard served its 90 days in the East, and was discharged in August, 1861. Vallee, on his return to Beloit, immediately started to recruit an artillery battery, recruited 140 men that became the 4th Wisconsin Light Artillery Battery, and was elected its Captain. The battery consisted of eight guns, and served in Virginia for the next three years. When the enlistment

period of the battery ended, Valles again returned to Beloit, and again commenced recruiting more men for the Army. The War ended before he was able to organize a new unit. He became a successful businessman, and remained active in the GAR for the remainder of his life.

18. WILLIAM H. GRINNELL CIVIL WAR - PIONEER BELOIT INDUSTRIALIST

Another memorial to the veterans of Beloit was created through the generosity of EMMA PECK GRINNELL the wife of William H. Grinnell, an early Beloit manufacturer and Civil War veteran. Mr. Grinnell as a young man from LaPrairie, Wisconsin, enlisted in Company "F" of the 35th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. After the Civil War he moved to Beloit, and eventually, with Fred Messer, A.A. Aldrich and J.J. Ross, organized the Beloit Iron Works, and served as an officer of that corporation for many years. He was active in the G.A.R. as local Commander and as Commander of the Wisconsin Department, and died in 1925. His widow, on her death in 1934, provided money for the construction of a veterans building on Bluff Street, and it was named Grinnell Hall in the memory of her husband, and Grinnell Hall then served as the home for veterans and patriotic organizations, high school dances and other civic groups and activities until the 1970's when it became the Community Senior Citizens Center.

19. GEORGE MACK MURDER VICTIM

Murdered by his wife and a hired-man. But, in Shopiere so is this a Beloit story or not? First recorded homicide in Beloit area.

20. JOHN HACKETT PIONEER BELOIT LEADERS - EARLY YEARS

MARRIED CORDELIA BLODGETT, THE DAUGHTER OF CALEB BLODGETT AND CAME TO BELOIT WITH CALEB IN 1836. HE WAS OUR FIRST MERCHANT, FIRST POSTMASTER IN 1839. HE BUILT THE FIRST HOUSE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE RIVER - OLD HIGH SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL APARTMENTS. GAVE THE LAND TO BUILD ST. PAUL'S. BUILT A FLOWER MILL AS WELL AS A GENERAL STORE. FOUNDER OF NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, MEMBER OF THE FIRST SCHOOL BOARD. MAYOR OF BELOIT. SERVED IN THE TERRITORIAL ASSEMBLY IN THE 1840'S, SERVED AS BELOIT'S DELEGATE TO THE WISCONSIN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1846, AND AFTER WE BECAME A STATE, SERVED IN THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE IN THE 1850'S.

HE WAS A LEARNED MAN WHO WAS SAID TO HAVE A LIBRARY OF OVER 3000 BOOKS, AND HE LEARNED FRENCH AT AGE 40 SO HE WOULD READ BOOKS IN THAT LANGUAGE.

HE DIED AT AGE 78 IN 1886...ON THE DAY OF HIS FUNERAL ALL STORES CLOSED.

21. THOMAS NORTHRUP CIVIL WAR

Like his brother, Marshall Northrup, Thomas Northrup recruited a company of men from Beloit, which called itself "Alexander's Sharp-Shooters," to join the Army during the Civil War. Thomas Northrup was elected Captain, and the company was made Company B, 22nd Wis. Inf. Regt. Another Beloit company, which didn't take a name for itself, was organized by Warren Hodgdon, which elected him Captain, and became Company L, 22nd Wis. Inf. Regt.

Thomas Northrup was a 26 year old painter, and better able to handle the rigors of military life than his 35 year old brother. Both Beloit company's saw much active service, and combat, with distinguished service. Thomas Northrup was mustered out for health reasons and out of service in 1884, before the end of the War, but under honorable circumstences. He continued his trade and became a pillar of the Beloit GAS.

22. WILLIAM BARSTOW STRONG BELOIT PHILANTHROPIST AND BENEFACTOR

Born in Vermont in 1837, Mr. Strong, at age 14, came to Beloit with his parents - ELIJAH GRIDLEY STRONG and SARAH PARTRIDGE STRONG -in 1851.

He attended school in Belolt, was taught to be a telegrapher by his brother John, and by 1855, at age 18, was in charge of the Janesville telegraph station.

In 1859 he married - ABBIE J. MOORE - the daughter of TYLER MOORE and the first child born in the settlement of Beloit..

Mr. Strong took to railroading, moving from telegrapher, to station agent, general manager, vice president and finally president of the ATCHINSON, TOPEKA AND SANTE FE RAILROAD, Strong City and Barstow in Arizona were both named after him.

In 1889 Mr. Strong returned to Beloit, bought the 2nd National Bank. He then proceeded to build the Strong Building at State and E. Grand Avenue, and had extensive real estate holdings. Recognizing a need for a hospital, he financed the STRONG EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, located in the Strong Building.

He also recognized that Oakwood Cemetery was becoming crowded, and donated to the City the East helf of what's here today...and STRONG PARK ON MILWAUKEE ROAD.

Three Beloit Streets are named for his family - STRONG, PARTRIDGE and MOORE. STRONG SCHOOL, Park and Bushnell, was named for him. In 1899 Mr. Strong - REPORTING HE HAD A VISION ABOUT WHAT HE WAS TO DO - contributed land and \$3500 to build GRIDLEY CHAPEL (IN HONOR OF HIS FATHER) - NOW GRIDLEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH on Strong Avenue, and in the 1930's his son contributed the money to build STRONG STADIUM for Beloit College.

WILLIAM BARSTOW STRONG WAS A BELOIT PHILANTHROPIST AND BENEFACTOR.

23. JOHN STROTHERS CIVIL WAR - PIONEER BELOIT BLACK FAMILY

JOHN, OR JOHNNY STROTHERS ARRIVED IN BELOIT IN 1863 - ESCAPING FROM THE SOUTH...AND IN AUGUST, 1864 - ENLISTED IN THE UNION ARMY.

FOUR MEN LISTING BELOIT AS THEIR RESIDENCES...ENLISTED IN WHAT WAS THEN CALLED - THE U.S. COLORED TROOPS - THEY WERE:

PETER DABNEY MOSES NELSON JAMES REED AND JOHN STROTHERS

THE FIRST BELOITERS TO SERVE IN THE CIVIL WAR WERE MEMBERS OF THE BELOIT CITY GUARD...1ST WISCONSIN...WHO ANSWERED THE CALL OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN IN APRIL, 1861...SERVED 90 DAYS...AND RETURNED HOME IN AUGUST, 1861.

BELOIT JOURNAL & COURIER - AUGUST 29, 1861

A CONTRABAND - THE BELOIT CITY GUARDS WERE ACCOMPANIED HOME BY A GENUINE CONTRABAND FROM OLD VIRGINY. THE

DARKEY IS ABOUT TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD, QUITE INTELLIGENT, AND CAME UP FROM HIS BONDAGE THROUGH MUCH TRIBULATION, HAVING SEVERAL TIMES ESCAPED HIS MASTER.

WAS THAT MAN JOHN STROTHERS...OR ONE OF THE OTHER THREE...WE WILL NEVER KNOW AS THAT'S THE ONLY RECORD WE HAVE OF THIS EVENT.

FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR WE KNOW THAT JOHN STROTHERS MADE BELOIT HIS HOME...FARMING AND THEN LEARNING THE BLACKSMITH TRADE. HE MARRIED MINNIE BENSON, FROM MISSOURI, AND THEY HAD EIGHT CHILDREN.

TWO OF HIS SONS...MERRILL AND THEODORE...GRADUATED FROM BELOIT COLLEGE IN 1902 - 1903 RESPECTIVELY.

24. CHILLANA O'CONNOR CIVIL WAR MOTHER OF COL. EDGAR O'CONNOR

Mother of Edgar O'Connor and wife of Bostwick O'Connor, probably Beloit's most active War Democrat, and called by come a Copperhead. Her only son, Edgar O'Connor, was Colonel of the 2nd Wis. Inf. Regt. of the Iron Brigade, and killed at Brawner Farm, August 29, 1882, on his 29th birthday.

EDGAR O'CONNOR:

A West Point graduate of the Class of 1854, he had resigned his commission in 1858 and moved to Beloit where he practiced law. Appointed Colonel of the 2nd Wis. Inf. Regiment of the Iron Brigade, he was killed in action leading his regiment at the Battle of Brawner Farm, August 28, 1862, at age 29. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, O.C.

THE TREE MONUMENT OF DOLLIE GROUT

This ornate VICTORIAN TREE MARKER is in a style of the era (THERE ARE FIVE MORE TREE MONUMENTS IN OAKWOOD).

This memorial is different that others, which merely recite the names of the deceased....IT IS A MARBLE TREE TRUNK, with engraving showing her cloak...het...field glasses....and a book of Shakespeare...all shown in the trunk of the

cement tree. With the message "THESE THINGS I LIKED,"

AT THIS POINT - OVER THE PAST YEARS - THE TOUR GUIDE IS TO POINT OUT TO YOU THE "BRANCHES" WHICH WERE NO SMOOTHLY FINISHED BY THE MARBLE CUTTER, BUT LOOK AS IF THEY WERE TORN OFF.

The "story" then followed that in 1884, Dollie Grout, age 21, taking refuge in a storm, under a tree, was killed by lightening, and the "tree monument" was place here by her grieving parents, symbolizing her untimely death.

UNFORTUNATELY IT'S NOT TRUE.

JAN, 24, 1884 BELOIT WEEKLY PRESS

DEATH OF MISS DOLLIE GROUT

WHILE NOT UNEXPECTED IT IS WITH NONE THE LESS SORROW THAT THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF MISS DOLLIE GROUT WAS RECEIVED FRIDAY, LIFE HAVING FLED FROM HER FAIR FORM AT NINE O'CLOCK THURSDAY. SHE HAD BEEN SICK WITH TYPHOID FEVER FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AND HAD SO FAR RECOVERED AS TO BE ABLE TO GO OUR OF DOORS A FEW DAYS BUT ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO SHE SUFFERED A RELAPSE AND FOR SEVERAL DAY PAST HAS BEEN LYING IN THE BALANCE SETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, WHILE THE ANXIETY OF HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS HAS KNOWN NO REST.

DOLLIE WAS IN THE TWENTY FIRST YEAR OF HER LIFE, AND IN SOCIETY WAS AMONG THE BEST KNOWN AND MOST POPULAR OF BELOIT'S YOUNG LADIES. TWO YEARS AGO SHE GRADUATED FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL.

I AGONIZED OVER DESTROYING THIS ROMANTIC STORY...BUT THEN REALIZED IT TOOK NOTHING FROM THE MESSAGE OF LOVE AND AFFECTION - EXPRESSED OVER 100 YEARS AGO FOR DOLLIE GROUT.

OTHER TREE MONUMENTS -

- CHARLES AND MARY BURROW ~ 1921-1922
 A STARK TREE TRUNK ENTWINED WITH LEAVES.
- AUGUST AND SOPHIA MILTON 1904 1924
 THE TRUNK WITH A BRASS PLAT IDENTIFYING AUGUST AS MEMBER
 OF MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA...ONE OF THE FIRST

FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATIONS IN BELOIT.

- 3. RICHARD MARTIN 1985 AND HIS WIFE EMMA 1935 IS DISTINGUISHED WITH A LARGE SCROLL HANGING FROM A TREE BRANCH.
- A TREE WITH BRANCH MARKED "PYE" FOR SAMUEL 1891 AND ANN - 1887.
- 5. A LARGE FAMILY PLOT OUTLINED IN STONE LOGS, WITH SIX LOGS AS HEADSTONES THE DUNBAR FAMILY.

JOHN AND ELIZABETH DUNBAR WERE BOTH BORN IN THE EAST AND PIONEER BELOITERS.

THE DUNBAR PLOT SHOWS THE SAD STORY OF THAT TIME - THE DEATH OF CHILDREN BEFORE THE AGE OF 5 - USUALLY THROUGH DIPHTHERIA OR PNEUMONIA USUALLY.

UNLIKE MANY URBAN CEMETERIES THERE ARE ONLY THREE MAUSOLEUMS AT OAKWOOD:

RUTLEDGE - Contains no names or dates for occupants, there can be observed through window spaces for six (3) caskets.

KELLER-MORSE - Contains no names or dates for occupants, and the window has been bricked-up so inside cannot be seen.

Cemetery records should show who is buried in each mausoleum, but as it appears they had no interest in letting the future know who they were, why not let them retain their privacy.

NOT SO THE BRODER MAUSOLEUM.

CONSTRUCTED IN 1883 AND 1884, OF MARBLE AND GRANITE...WITH GOTHIC SCULPTURE,....IT HAS BEEN SEEN BY GENERATIONS OF BELOITERS AS THE DRIVE ALONG CENTRAL AVENUE.

THE MARGEET EMERGE ON THE WORTH OLDS: HE SOURS

PAULUS BRODAEUS (PAUL BRODER)
...THE VERSE FROM TIMOTHY READS:
"I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT.
I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE.
I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.
HENCEFORTH THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME A
CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH THE LORD,
THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE,
SHALL GIVE ME AT THE DAY AND NOT TO
ME ONLY, BUT UNTIL ALL THEM ALSO THAT LIVE
HIS APPEARING."

PAUL BRODER DIED IN DECEMBER OF 1881.

THE MARBLE PLAQUE ON THE SOUTH SIDE - IN LATIN:

JACOBUS HENRICI BRODAEUS (JACOB HENRY BRODER)
...THE VERSE FROM JOB READS:
FOR I KNOW MY REDEEMER LIVES AND AT LAST HE WILL
STAND UPON THE EARTH AND AFTER MY SKIN HAS
BEEN THUS DESTROYED, WHEN WITHOUT FLESH,
I SHALL SEE GOD WHOM I SHALL SEE ON MY
SIDE AND MY EYES SHALL BEHOLD, AND NOT
ANOTHER MY HEART FAINTS WITHIN ME."

JACOB DIED IN 1867.

THE WEST MARBLE PLAQUE WAS NOT INSCRIBED.

THE MAIN VAULT IS ON TWO LEVELS...WITH ROOM FOR FOUR CASKETS ON THE FLOOR...AND THREE ON THE SHELF ABOVE.

THE DOOR YOU SEE NOW IS LOCKED...THE KEY ORDERED DESTROYED IN THE WILL OF THE LAST BRODER SURVIVOR...THERE ALSO USED TO BE A THIRD GATE...REMOVED YEARS AGO AS IT DETERIORATED.

FACTS THAT CAN BE AGREED UPON ABOUT THE BRODER FAMILY

1. IN 1847 - JACOB BRODER, AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE, LEFT IRELAND WITH HIS SEVEN (7) CHILDREN - FIVE (5) GIRLS AND TWO (2) BOYS...SETTLING IN THE ROCKTON AREA.

- 2. IN 1849 JACOB BRODER PURCHASED PROPERTY IN BELOIT AND MOVED HIS FAMILY HERE.
- 3. THE BRODER DAUGHTERS STARTED A MILLINERY STORE...AND WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL...AND THE FAMILY BRANCHED OUT INTO REAL ESTATE....AGAIN VERY SUCCESSFULLY...THEY WERE IN EFFECT WEALTHYBUT AS IRISH-CATHOLICS OUTSIDE OF BELOIT'S SOCIAL ELITE.
- 4. JACOB BRODER DIED IN 1869 THE YOUNGEST SON JAMES DIED IN 1870 AT AGE 21....BOTH (REPORTEDLY) BURIED IN A CATHOLIC CEMETERY LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE ROCK RIVER, ACROSS FROM WHAT BECAME SOUTH BELOIT. THE SITE OF THIS CEMETERY IS NOT CLEAR AND NEEDS FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

(IT WASN'T UNTIL 1882 THAT THE "ARLINGTON" CEMETERY OFFICIALLY BECAME THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY FOR BELOIT.)

- 5. AFTER THEIR FATHERS DEATH...THE BRODER SISTERS SENT THEIR BROTHER PAUL BRODER TO NOTRE DAME AND HE RECEIVED A LAW DEGREE IN 1873 AND RETURNED TO BELOIT TO PRACTICE AND MANAGE THE FAMILY'S RENTAL PROPERTIES HE NEVER MARRIED.
- 6. IN THE LATE 1860'S BEFORE JACOB'S DEATH THE BRODERS BUILT A HUGH HOME IN THE 600 BLOCK OF WHAT WAS THEN UNION STREET AND IS NOW WISCONSIN AVENUE -
 - 10 ROOMS, CARRIAGE HOUSE AND BARN AND OCCUPYING 2/3RD OF THE BLOCK BETWEEN BUSHNELL AND CHAPIN. IT WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1925.
- 7. IN DECEMBER OF 1881 PAUL BRODER WAS FOUND AT THE FOOT OF THE STAIRS LEADING TO HIS OFFICE (LOCATED IN THE 200 BLOCK OF STATE STREET) UNCONSCIOUS AND SOON DIED.

THE SISTERS BELIEVED IT WAS BY FOUL MEANS...SOME RENTER HAD...IN FACT...BEAT HIM TO DEATH AND THROWN HIS BODY DOWN THE STAIRS.

THE INVESTIGATION BY THE SHERIFF AND CORONER RULED IT "ACCIDENTAL DEATH" - THE SISTERS PROCEED TO TAKE PAUL'S BODY TO MILWAUKEE...TO BE EXAMINED BY "EXPERTS" AS THEY REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE VERDICT OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

THIS BECAME A TRAGEDY THAT WOULD CONSUME THEIR LIVES.

 THE BRODER SISTERS HAD ALREADY BEEN ESTRANGED FROM ONE SISTER -MARGARET - WHO HAD MARRIED OUTSIDE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

WE WILL NEVER KNOW THE REASONS...BUT THEY ALSO BECAME ESTRANGED FROM THE LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH - ST. THOMAS (THE ONLY ONE IN TOWN) - AND STOPPED GOING TO CHURCH.

9. THE STORY IS THAT IN 1883 THE BRODERS OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM THE CITY COUNCIL TO PURCHASE LOTS HERE, AND HAVE THEY CONSECRATED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. AND - THAT "THE BISHOP" CONSECRATED THIS ONE SINGLE PLOT IN A PROTESTANT CEMETERY FOR CATHOLIC BURIAL.

QUERY AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THE ABOVE:

THERE ARE NO RECORDS...NO EVIDENCE OF THE ABOVE.

IN 1883 THE CATHOLIC BISHOP WAS LOCATED IN MILWAUKEE, WOULD HE HAVE COME TO BELOIT TO CONSECRATE ONE PLOT IN A PROTESTANT CEMETERY, WHERE THERE WAS ALREADY A CATHOLIC CEMETERY - FOR A FAMILY THAT WAS NOT ATTEND THE LOCAL CHURCH - VERY QUESTIONABLE.

TRADITION OF THE TIME THIS WAS TO HAVE OCCURRED SAYS - NO WAY.

IN 1883 ST. THOMAS, BELOIT'S ONLY CATHOLIC CHURCH, BURNED DOWN - MONEY WAS NEEDED TO REBUILD IT, THE IDEA OF THE BRODER'S BUILDING AN EXPENSIVE MAUSOLEUM AT THE SAME TIME - AND APPARENTLY ANGRY WITH THE CHURCH (OR PERHAPS WITH FATHER WARD), MAKES IT LESS THAN PROBABLE SUCH A REQUEST WOULD HAVE BEEN FAVORABLY ACTED UPON BY A BISHOP.

WHATEVER - HERE IT STANDS.

THE LAST SISTER - ANN - DIED IN 1922.

OAKWOOD RECORDS SHOW ONLY THE BODIES OF ONLY FIVE BORDERS IN THE MAUSOLEUM - PAUL - ALICE - CATHERINE - MARY AND ANN.

WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT JACOB OR JAMES ARE IN THERE...BUT WE DON'T KNOW...THE KEY IS LOST...

- 11. PERHAPS THE WORD ECCENTRIC COULD DESCRIBED THE BRODER FAMILY BUT THEY WERE IN THEIR WAY ALSO COMMUNITY BENEFACTORS:
 - CONTRIBUTED THE LAND FOR ST, PAUL CHURCH
 - CONTRIBUTED THE LAND FOR ST. PETER'S IN SOUTH BELOIT.
 - 3. OFFERED THE CITY A LARGE TRACT OF LAND AT WHAT IS NOW PRAIRIE AND WHITE AVENUE FOR THE CITY TO BUILD A CITY HOSPITAL HOWEVER THEY WANTED IT NAMED AFTER THEM AND THE CITY COUNCIL REJECTED THE OFFER.
 - 4. ON THE DEATH OF THE LAST SISTER WILLED THE BRODER ESTATE TO MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY.

ALBERT WIRZ

TITANIC SINKING VICTIM
WHILE EMIGRATING TO BELOIT FROM SWITZERLAND
DEDICATED IN 1996

A 28 YEAR OLD RESIDENT OF ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, EMIGRATING TO AMERICAN IN 1912. HE SELECTED THE WHITE STAR LINER - TITANIC - ON ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE - TO MAKE THE TRIP.

HIS DESTINATION WAS BELOIT WITH A TRAIL TICKET FROM NEW YORK AS PART OF THE PACKAGE - TO LIVE WITH AN UNCLE AND AUNT.

APRIL 14-15, 1912 - ONE ICEBERG PROVED THERE WAS NO UNSINKABLE SHIP. BODY FOUND ON APRIL 24, IDENTIFIED. SHIPPED TO BELOIT.

MAY 11, 1912 - BURIAL SERVICES BY THE PASTOR OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WHO GAVE THE SERVICES IN GERMAN, NO MONUMENT WAS ERECTED OVER HIS GRAVE.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1996, A MONUMENT WAS SET OVER HIS GRAVE, THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF GUNTER BABLER, OF SWITZERLAND, AND FLOYD ANDRICK, OF MICHIGAN, AND GRAVESIDE SERVICES GIVEN BY THE PASTER OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, REV. CHARLES LARSON - THIS TIME IN ENGLISH.

TITANIC - 2223 PASSENGER AND CREW 712 RESCUED 1511 DIED - 336 BODIES FOUND

SEE ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPH IN BELOIT DAILY NEWS, SEPTEMBER 6, 1996.

WAR MEMORIALS AT OAKWOOD

SPANISH - AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL

The monument, named "THE HIKER" was dedicated on June 13, 1926, through the efforts of the veterans of the Spanish-American War....April 27, 1898, COMPANY E, BELOIT'S NATIONAL GUARD COMPANY, paraded from Bluff Street, down West Grand Avenue, onto State Street and to the Northwestern Railroad Depot, marching to war. Six Beloiters would die, all of disease, yellow fever and typhus, and the boys would not get further than Florida before the war was over.

NO MEMORIAL WAS EVER BUILT FOR 66 MEN AND 1 WOMAN FROM BELOIT WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR I - YET IN 1926, EIGHT YEARS AFTER THE END OF WWI - THIS MONUMENT TO OUR SMALLEST AND NEXT TO VIET NAM, MOST WORTHLESS WAS - WAS BUILT.

SOLDIERS MEMORIAL

1. Building the Soldiers Memorial

In 1889, 24 years after the end of the Civil War, the Beloit City Council received a petition from the L.H.D. Crane Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, asking for the donation and dedication of a portion of Oakwood for the burial of veterans and the erection of a "stately monument" dedicated to the Civil War casualties, the monument to be paid for by the GAR and public donations.

The Council unanimously voted to set aside Block 12 in Strong's Addition for the veterans - containing veterans (not casualties) of Civil War, Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Korea and Viet Nam.

It took another six years, but on MEMORIAL DAY in 1905 the SOLDIERS MONUMENT which cost \$4,115 (raised in the community in pennies, nickels and dimes), was dedicated - AND IT WAS ESTIMATED 5,000 BELOITERS

ATTENDED THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES.

There are no names on the monument, merely the figures of three soldiers and one sailor - and the words TO OUR SOLDIER DEAD.

2. Civil War Soldiers Honored

BELOIT IN 1860 had a population of 4,098. During the four years of our Civil War - 779 men listing their residences as Beloit, served the Union.

Beloit's first Civil War battle casualty was Benjamin F. Hoag a private in the 18th Wisconsin who died of disease in Savannah Tennessee April 7, 1862. The first man from Beloit killed in combat was William C. Franklin, a private in the 7th Wisconsin, who the records show was "killed in action by guarrillas" on May 1 1862.

The disposition of the dead during the Civil War was determined by the limited transportation facilities available to return bodies, the fact that battle fields changed hands often and it was impossible to gather and identify the dead, and the expense involved in preparing the dead and transporting of them miles away to their homes. Soldiers did not have "dog tags" and after battles they were quickly buried. If possible, on the battle fields, marked with wooden stakes on which names were carved, or planks with paper notes - both of which disappeared with time and the weather. Finding and removing the bodies, months or years later, made identification difficult if usually impossible.

Thirty-six men from Beloit lie buried in Virginia; eight in Kentucky; nine in Tennessee; four in Pennsylvania; eight in Georgia; three in Maryland; five in Missouri; two in Louisiana; five in Missouri; two in Illinois; one in Kansas; one in Mississippi; one in New York; and two in Washington D.C.

As best can be determined by research, the bodies of only eight of the men from Beloit who died during the Civil War were returned for final burial here in Beloit: L.H.D. Crane, C.F. Cramer, Alexander Gordon, W.S. Miller, Horace Ormsby, C.E. Preston, and Freeman B. Riddle.

THE PRICE BELOIT HAS PAID IN LIVES

IN OUR NATION'S WARS

In terms of DESTRUCTION of young lives from this one community in Wisconsin during the wars of our Country, the record speaks as follows:

THE CIVIL WAR

Beloit's population was 4,098.

Duration of the Civil War - April 12 1861 to April 27 1861

[Four years two weeks]

TOTAL DEATH CASUALTIES:

90

In the following wars of our nation, Beloit's men, and women, responded with valor as is shown by the toll paid by the Beloiter's who followed the boy's of the Civil War.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Beloit's population was 15,000.

Duration of the Spanish-American War - April 25 1898 to December 10 1898 [Eight months]

TOTAL DEATH CASUALTIES: 6

WORLD WAR I

Beloit's population was 29,500
Duration of World War I - April 6 1917 to November 11 1918
[One year six months]
BETWEEN OCTOBER 11, 1918 AND NOVEMBER 11, 1918, THE LAST 30
DAYS OF WWI - 29 BELOITERS DIED
TOTAL DEATH CASUALTIES: 67

<u>WORLD WAR II</u>

Beloit's population was 32,000.

Durstion of World War II - December 7 1941 to September 2 1945

[Three years ten months]

TOTAL DEATH CASUALTIES: 161

THE KOREAN WAR

Beloit's population was 32,000.

Duration of Korean War - June 25 1950 to July 27 1953

[Two years one month]

TOTAL DEATH CASUALTIES:

21

VIETNAM WAR

Beloit's population was 32,000.

Duration of Vietnam War - August 2 1964 to March 29 1973 [Eight years eight months]

TOTAL DEATH CASUALTIES:

23

THE TOLL IN BLOOD PAID BY BELOIT IN OUR NATION'S WARS:

368